DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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WHAT? AGAIN?

Nazi-style Storm Troppers guard war criminal Field Marshal Kesselring, addressing a political meeting in Giessen, American Zone, this Summer.

Kesselring, sentenced to death by a British Military Court in 1947 for murdering 335 Italian patriots, was named last month as a right-wing candidate in the West German elections to be held on September 6th, but later withdrew.

SEE PAGES 6 & 7 FOR NEWS OF ELECTIONS AND NAZI CANDIDATES

WAGES UP, PRICES DOWN IN EAST GERMANY: SEE PAGE 2 & 3

PLANS FOR 1954 IN EAST GERMANY

End Rationing, Cut Prices, Build Homes

The East German Government plans to end all rationing, to cut prices and to launch a really big-scale house building programme in 1954, Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl told the People's Chamber on July 29th.

These developments would be part of the new course of the Government of the German Democratic Republic, which is aimed at providing every working inhabitant of East Germany with more to eat and more goods to buy than the inhabitants of West Germany, the Prime Minister announced.

After listing the fair-reaching measures already taken in the past few weeks, including wage increases and price cuts (details of these measures are given on the opposite page), Prime Minister Grotewohl continued:

Our present task is to devote all our energy to put these measures into effect, and to carry out the new course which we have charted.

This new course, which the Government of the German Democratic Republic decided upon on June 11th, is aimed at rapidly improving the standard of living of the working people. We are faced with the task of seeing to it that our working people get more to eat, and have more goods to buy than the people in West Germany.

This will mean that the new course will become a decisive aid in winning the masses of the workers in the whole of Germany for the struggle for national unity and peace.

To put this course into effect means firstly that we must increase the production of food stuffs and consumer goods; secondly that we import more consumer goods; and thirdly that we improve and develop retail trade.

In 1954 we intend to continue with the policy of price reductions, which of course means that more goods are necessary. Prices in the State Shops (off-the-ration prices now higher than ration prices, ed.) must be so reduced that we reach a unitary price system.

On this basis we hope to acheive the abolition of the remainder of the rationing system in 1954. This will be an obvious and visible sign of the rise in our standard of living.

For 1954 a large-scale house building programme is already being worked out, and in this field too we intend to create better conditions.

The measures taken for the rapid improvement of the standard of living naturally demand a change in the Five Year Plan.

Heavy industrial production is to be reduced during 1953 by 1400 million marks, and the production of consumer goods and foodstuffs is to be increased by about 950 million marks. Investments, particularly in heavy industry, during 1953, are to be cut by 1,700 million marks, and the sum of 670 million marks is to be made available for the building and repair of housing, and the construction of rest homes, old-age homes, kindergartens, etc.

During 1954 and 1955 the sum to be invested in industry is to be reduced by at least 4000 million marks. The reduction will be mainly in the metallurgical industry, ore mining, and heavy engineering. The consumer goods industry will be expanded, as well as the electrical production, coal production, tractor stations and state-owned farms.

Here are some of the other main points made by Prime Minister Grotewohl in his speech:

The Fascist Putsch On June 17th

The attempted fascist putsch in the German Democratic Republic on June 17th was launched by the American imperialists and German big-business. This is shown clearly by developments in the West German Stock Exchanges. On June 16th, the day before the attempted putsch, the West German financial newspaper "Industriekurier" stated:

> "Lively trading in stocks of concerns in East Germany. Big rises in quotations for the stocks of firms which lost large industrial holdings in East Germany."

The people who tried to stage strikes in the German Democratic Republic were people who were working for German and American big business, those interests which would like to see the German Democratic Republic disorganised, and its acheivements destroyed. In those lands where they rule these gentlemen exploit the workers by every means, and baton down every peace demonstration, but they suddenly support strikes when they take place in the German Democratic Republic. They are not interested in a better life for the workers. They just want to get back their factories which have been nationalised in the German Democratic Republic; they want to cancel land reform and subject the peasants to the yoke of the Junkers; they want to reintroduce capitalism to the German Democratic Republic and integrate it in the American war bloc.

Despite all the claims about a "general strike" in the German Democratic Republic on June 17th, only 5 percent of the workers and employees were misled into taking part, and there were disturbances only in 272 of the 10,000 towns and villages in the Republic.

Building Socialism

Have we abandoned the building of the foundations of Socialism as the goal of our work of construction? No. Our open and honest reply is that we shall continue to build Socialism, because that is in the interests of the people. It is false, however, to speed-up the construction of Socialism with the help of administrative measures of all sorts.

We believe that we are acting in the interests of the working people and the entire people when we do not hinder the development of small and medium private capitalist undertakings in town and country. We shall not, however, allow the formation of big capitalist monopolies, trusts, syndicates, etc. in the German Democratic Republic.

Agricultural Problems

The great majority of the agricultural population are individual peasants, and they are the main producers of agricultural products. In accordance with this the individual peasants are to be given all possible help by the democratic state and the social organisations.

The tractor stations must be so expanded that they can help the individual peasants too. In addition the existent agricultural production cooperatives are to be given further help. In the question of joining the agricultural production cooperatives, the peasants are to be left absolutely free decision. They should only take steps which they decide upon quite voluntarily for themselves.

Education

In the past few years the fulfillment of our big plans in the construction of heavy industry made it difficult to improve the condition of the school buildings, particularly in the country. The new course will find its expression in greater support for the schools, particularly the elementary schools.

Amnesty and Returnees

Since June 11th (when the Government decided on the new course, ed.) a total of 8871 persons have been released from prison, including 5752 who were imprisoned for minor offences against the Law for the Protection of National Property, 2081 who were imprisoned for tax debts or non-delivery of crop quotas, and 1038 prisoners who had done outstanding work during their term in prison.

Up until July 17th, 2454 persons who had fled to the west had returned to the Republic, and confiscated farms had been returned to 1939 applicants.

Since June 11th about 130,000 interzonal passes had been issued for people to visit relatives in West Germany, and 250,000 permits had been issued for West Germans to come to visit relatives in the Republic.

International Relations

We shall continue to develop and strengthen the friendly relations between the German Democratic Republic and other nations, particularly the friendly People's Republics and the great Socialist Soviet Union. We are convinced that the German people can only hope for a real improvement in their international position through the development of such relations.

We shall continue to expose the imperialist aggressors and warmongers, and we shall fight against their plots.

ONE MONTH'S GOOD NEWS:

Wages Up: Prices Down: More Meat

July was a festival month in East Germany, with almost daily announcements of new steps to improve the standard of living of all sections of the population.

The measures taken included big price reductions for a variety of goods, wage increases for lower paid workers, tax cuts, lower delivery quotas for peasants, the derationing of fish, and bigger meat rations.

In addition big new imports of food and consumer goods, together with the release of goods from the state reserves meant that there were more goods in the shops.

The price reductions affected a whole range of goods from perlon stockings (like nylon) to tea. Tea, which had previously been expensive, was halved in price; all grades of soap were reduced 40 %; perlon stockings were one third cheaper; some grades of sweets were 30 % cheaper, and rice was reduced almost 20 %. Electric light bulbs and typewriters were reduced by about 40 %.

In another move, all fish was taken off the ration, and many grades of fish were reduced in price by an average of 40 %. Ration cards which had previously entitled to the purchase of fish will in future be good for buying meat, so that most consumers will now get 50 % more meat than they used to.

Several million workers were directly affected by the big wage increases announced on July 23rd. The wage increases which averaged about 15 %, affected all lower paid workers. Higher paid skilled workers had their wages raised in 1952.

Textile workers, for instance will earn between 24 marks and 38 marks more every months, and engineering workers will have between 20 and 32 marks more pay to take home.

The tax cuts will bring considerable relief to small craftsmen and private industry. In addition to tax cuts, and the cancellation of tax debts from previous years, these groups of the population have been helped by the grant of credits to increase production.

The lower delivery quotas for peasants, announced on July 8th, provides that the quota of vegetables to be delivered to the state in 1953 is reduced from 700,000 tons to 400,000 tons. The peasants may sell the remaining vegetables on the free market.

The peasants will be one of the chief benefiters from another big price reduction: that for building materials. Cement, for instance, has been reduced from 22 marks per sack to 3 marks.

All these steps, which add up to a considerable increase in the standard of living, will be financed from the funds saved by a easing up in the pace at which heavy industry was being constructed.

In the remaining months of 1953 these steps will cost the state more than 2000 thousand million marks, it was officially announced. This sum was split as follows:

1. Improvements for workers, including wage increases, pension increases, improvements in social insurance etc — 447 million marks.
2. Improvements for the agricultural population — 476 million marks.
3. Improvements for all through housing programmes — 600 million marks .
4. Improvements for all through price reductions — 523 million marks.

First Freighter Launched

The first freighter to be built in the German Democratic Republic was launched in Rostock on July 13th. The ship, with a displacement of 3000 tons, will have model quarters for crew.

Most of Germany's pre-war shipbuilding yards are situated in West Germany, and it has been necessary to start from the very beginning with the construction of yards capable of building big ships in East Germany.

"MEET THIS MONTH FOR UNITY TALKS" — EAST GERMAN PARLIAMENT

Representatives of all parties in the East German Parliament have joined in an appeal for talks to be held between representatives of East and West Germany, before the end of August, on the question of unity.

The appeal, issued at the session of the People's Chamber held on July 30th stated in part:

"The People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic believes that the re-unification of Germany is a question which the Germans themselves, above all, must resolve. The German people cannot rest content with the present state of affairs by which West Germany is turned into a military-fascist state which is coming under the American yoke.

"The post-war years have shown that the ruling circles in the United States, as well as in Britain and France, are not interested in the unification of Germany on a democratic and peaceful basis, and that they are not interested in the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany. They pay no attention to the just interests and demands of the German people. They thwart all proposals made by the Soviet Union aimed at speeding up the conclusion of a peace treaty and the re-unification of Germany.

"They wish to drag Germany into a new war in Europe, so that German soldiers can take the chestnuts out of the fire for them. This is the only explanation of the fact that the negotiations hitherto held among the great powers on the German problem have produced no positive results . . .

"The People's Chamber believes that the summoning of an all-German discussion between representatives of East and West Germany is the necessary pre-condition for the success of a subsequent Four Power Conference on the German question.

"The fact that elections are pending in West Germany provides favourable conditions for the holding of all-German discussions at this moment . . .

"The People's Chamber approves the statement made by the Cabinet of the German Democratic Republic on July 15th (printed below), and proposes that all-German discussions between representatives of East and West Germany should be called at the shortest possible notice, and in any case not later than the end of August.

"This conference could take immediate steps to free inner-German trade from all hampering restrictions, and thus expand East-West trade in the interests of the economy of the whole of Germany.

"It could also reach an understanding on measures to ease communications between the two parts of Germany, in particular a more generous issue of interzonal passes etc.

"This all-German conference can also discuss the practical measures to be taken to prepare the same conditions in East and West Germany for holding free all-German elections.

"It can reach understanding on a common democratic electoral law for the whole of Germany, and take decisions on the creation of an all-German democratic peace-loving government, and decisions to speed up the conclusion of a peace treaty with the whole of Germany, followed by the withdrawal of the occupation forces.

"The People's Chamber does not regard the programme outlined above as binding on all-German discussions. We are ready to hold all-German discussions without any previous agreement on the agenda, in order to discuss freely all proposals made by both sides which serve the restoration of Germany on a peaceful and democratic basis."

Round-table discussions proposed

The Cabinet of the German Democratic Republic has appealed once again for round-table talks between representatives of East and West Germany to discuss the peaceful re-unification of the country, free all-German elections, and the conclusion of a peace treaty.

"We are ready for discussions despite the provocative actions of Adenauer (West German Chancellor) who used fascist agents on June 17th to organise disturbances in the German Democratic Republic" the appeal stated.

The East German Government statement stressed that Chancellor Adenauer was trying to make election propaganda with resounding appeals for German unification. "If Adenauer really wants the reunification of Germany, why does he hinder the summoning of an all-German conference?" the statement asked.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic has always fought consistently for the peaceful unification of Germany. In the future too the Government will devote all its strength to pressing for the speediest restoration of German unity, the conclusion of a peace treaty and the subsequent withdrawal of all occupation troops.

"The new political course of the Government of the German Democratic Republic, announced on June 11th, is the strengthened continuation of this policy. This course was not only brought about by the political and economic conditions of development in the German Democratic Republic; it also has the aim of aiding the reunification of Germany, and of strengthening the political, economic, cultural and other ties between East and West Germany.

"The new political course is intended to produce conditions in material and cultural life in accordance with the interests of the majority of the population in West Germany too, conditions which will be approved and accepted by the West German population when Germany is reunited.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic declares itself ready . . . to enter into negotiations with plenipotentiary representatives of West Germany on the question of preparing the peaceful reunification of Germany by means of free all-German elections, and on the questions of the speedy conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany.

"It is obvous that at such negotiations the proposals both of the representatives of the German Democratic Republic and of the (West German) Federal Republic must be discussed.

A Mother Who Fought Hitler Dies

A veteran anti-fascist, Frau Irmgard Litten, author of the book "A Mother Fights Hitler" died in Berlin on June 30th at the age of nearly 74.

Frau Litten, whose book was published in Britain early in the war, and later in the United States under the title "Beyond Tears", returned to democratic Germany in 1950 from London, where she had spent the war years.

During the war she was untiringly busy touring Britain, telling the story of her son, anti-fascist lawyer killed by the nazis, and of the need to build a better peaceful Germany.

British Release Another Nazi General Commando-Killer Freed

British military authorities have released war criminal General Nikolaus von Falkenhorst from Werl prison as "an act of clemency" it was officially announced on July 13th.

On August 2nd 1946, a British military court, presided over by Major-General I. S. Playfair, sentenced Falkenhorst to death for the murder of British and Norwegian commando troops during the war.

Two weeks before Falkenhorst's release he was visited in jail by West German Chancellor Adenauer, who promised he would do everything to get him released.

Adenauer also visited SS General Kurt Meyer, only other war criminal general still held in British custody. Meyer was sentenced to life imprisonment by a Canadian court.

Fascists Heckle O'Casey Play

Fascist hecklers interrupted the showing of the anti-war play "The Silver Tassie" by famous Irish playwright Sean O'Casey when it was presented in West Berlin recently.

The rowdies showed their nazi inspiration by shouting anti-Semitic insults at Fritz Kortner, famous actor of Jewish origin who staged the play.

SS General Acquitted

A German court in Nuremberg has acquitted SS General Benno Martin, who was on trial charged with war crimes. Evidence was given that Martin, who was an intimate friend of anti-Semitic leader Julius Streicher, had in 990 cases ordered deportations to Auschwitz, which had all "ended fatally". The court decided that Martin "has not been in a position to understand the criminal nature of his deeds".

FOOD FROM FRIENDS

Big New Shipments from Soviets Union

The Soviet Union has provided East Germany with huge food shipments on credit in order to provide the workers with a better and more varied diet.

Figures released in Berlin on July 21st showed that in the second half of 1953 the Soviet Union would provide an extra 27,000 tons of butter, in addition to the 30,000 tons already contracted for at the beginning of the year; 11,000 tons of vegetable oils in addition to the contracted 18,500 tons; 20,000 tons of meat in addition to the contracted 5000 tons; and large shipments of other foodstuffs such as cheese which were not provided for in the original trade agreement.

Grain imports from the Soviet Union to East Germany, which amount to 935,000 tons this year, will be sufficient to provide everybody with all the bread they can eat, and will not be increased.

The total value of all food imports from the Soviet Union during 1953 will be 1130 million rubles — more than 280 million dollars. Food is being imported from China, Poland, Hungary, Rumania and other People's Democracies to a value of over 125 million dollars.

Arrested Nazis Freed Again

The last two of the leading nazis who were arrested by the British authorities in West Germany on January 16th this year have been released without any proceedings being, taken against them.

The two, who were freed on July 28th, were Dr Werner Neumann, former Secretary of State in Goebbel's Propaganda Ministry, and Dr Karl Bornemann, former Hitler Youth leader.

When they were arrested in January the British authorities announced that a "dangerous nazi plot" had been unearthed. In its issue of January 30th, GERMAN REPORT gave the news under the headline "'Nazi Plot' Fraud — British Make Camouflage Arrests", and stated:

"The aims of the British swoop were . . . to cover up the British-American plot to give back full power and an army to the really dangerous nazis and militarists who hold all key positions in the West German Government and industry."

SS "Fought for Europe"

Hitler's SS thugs who were killed in the war "fell for Germany and for Europe", SS General Herbert Gille told a meeting of 10,000 former nazi soldiers in Hanover on July 20th. "The time has come to redress the great wrong done to the SS by the verdict of the Nuremberg Trial, which condemned the SS as a criminal organisation."

General Gille's words were politely clapped by West German Vice Chancellor Franz Bluecher, and Social Democratic Minister Heinrich Albertz, who also addressed the soldier's meeting.

Holiday Camps for Millions of Children

Over 1,800,000 East German children are going to various forms of holiday camps this summer. Hundreds of thousands are going to camps at the seaside and in the mountains, and most large factories have special camps for the children of their workers.

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SUPPRESSION MARKS W.GERMAN ELECTION

Progressive Parties Hindered

The election campaign in West Germany has been marked by a campaign of suppression and violence aimed at all progressive parties and candidates.

A considerable proportion of the Communist candidates are in prison, pending trial on vague charges such as of "insulting Chancellor Adenauer", meetings have been banned without reason, party offices raided and election propaganda seized by the police, and progressive newspapers have been prevented from appearing.

On July 31st the Communist Party of Germany officially complained to the electoral authorities of the illegal steps which were being taken to hinder the electoral campaign. The protest detailed dozens of separate cases of meetings being banned, election material being confiscated by the police, etc.

"This hindrance in the electoral campaign, systematically prosecuted, is a gross breach of constitutional rights. We insist that all necessary measures be taken to allow the Communist Party free electoral activity."

Here are just a few instances of the measures of suppression practiced against progressive parties:

The Government of the Province of Hesse, American Zone, has banned all open-air meetings of the Communist Party, on the grounds that they would "endanger security and public order".

On July 7th West German police raided the print shops in Essen, British Zone, where two Communist daily papers are printed. They sealed the machines, and seized all papers which they found in the editorial offices.

Herr Mumm of Herne has been informed by electoral authorities that he is not entitled to vote, since he was deprived of civil rights in 1944 by a nazi court which tried him for anti-fascist activities.

The West German Supreme Court in Karlsruhe decided at the end of July that youth leader Jupp Angenforth, a Communist candidate in the elections, must remain in prison. Angenforth was arrested in March 1953 on a vaguely worded charge and has not yet been brought to trial.

In Oldenburg, British Zone, the police have banned election meetings of the progressive "League of Germans", after nazis had threatened to raid the meetings.

Results of the 1949 West German Elections

	Votes	Seats
Christian Democratic Union	7,357,579	139
Social Democratic Party	6,932,272	131
Free Democratic Party	2,788,655	52
Communist Party	1,360,443	15
Bavarian Party	986,606	17
German Party	940,088	17
Centre Party	727,343	10
Economic Reconstruction Association	681,981	12
German Right Party	428,949	5
Independents	1,209,853	4

HERE ARE THE PARTIES

More than 60 different parties and groups are putting up candidates for the West German elections. Here are details of some of the more important ones:

COMMUNIST PARTY

Led by Max Reimann, the Communist Party has fought consistently for a re-united peaceful and democratic Germany. The electoral programme calls for the establishment of a coalition government of all those who seek a peaceful settlement of world problems; the cancellation of the Bonn War Treaties; the removal of all nazis and militarists from office; the nationalisation of basic industry and the banks, and a thorough land reform, equal rights and equal pay for women.

ALL GERMAN PEOPLE'S PARTY

A new party formed by Gustav Heinemann, prominent Protestant layman, and former Christian Democratic Minister of the Interior, who resigned in protest at Adenauer's remilitarisation policy. The party strongly opposes West German remilitarisation, and supports peaceful reunification through negotiation. The party has entered into an electoral alliance with the "League of Germans" (see below).

LEAGUE OF GERMANS

A new party led by Joseph Wirth, Catholic Chancellor during the Weimar Republic. Electoral programme: peaceful agreement between both halves of Germany, and "conclusion of a peace treaty guaranteeing the complete independence of reunited Germany, but excluding all one-sided participation in military, economic or political alliances directed against another country."

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION

Largest party in old parliament, led by Chancellor Adenauer. Accepted in West Germany to be the "American Party", with large scale support from German big business. Programme: Remilitarisation of West Germany, "Integration" in West Europe, later forced integration of East Germany and large parts of Poland, "free enterprise" at home. Chancellor Adenauer, speaking on August 2nd at election meeting, stated: "We must be ready to make the east (parts of Poland, ed.) into a German land once more."

Election candidates include nazi tank general Geyr von Schweppenburg, and General von Stumpf, chief of personnel in Goering's Air Ministry.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Second largest party in old parliament, led by Erich Ollenhauer. Programme approximates to that of the British Labour Party, calling for nationalisation of basic industries, and improved social services. One of the main electoral points made is the appeal for the peaceful reunification of Germany, but Social Democratic leaders too call for the inclusion of large parts of Poland within a re-united Germany.

FREE DEMOCRATIC UNION

Party of the "respectable former nazis", led by Vice Chancellor Franz Bluecher. Similar programme to Christian Democrats, but emphasis on strong central government instead of federalist tendencies. Programme points include: Alliance with "Free World", West German army; peace treaty must recognise the 1937 frontiers (including parts of Poland and Soviet Union); release of all war criminals; return to private ownership of various state enterprises. Wishes to achieve a coalition of all parties "right of the Christian Democrats" i. e. extreme right wing.

Candidates include nazi general Hasso von Manteuffel, commander of the division "Greater Germany". War Criminal Field Marshal Kesselring was originally a candidate, but later withdrew.

GERMAN PARTY

Right wing party with much nazi support, led by Transport Minister Hans Christoph Seebohm, who last year claimed the return to Germany of the entire pre-1919 German Empire, including French Alsace, and in addition called for "Sudetenland" in Czechoslovakia, which has never formed part of Germany.

"The greatest danger facing West Germany is the penetration of the democratic parties by sinister Marxists" he stated in an election speech on July 4th.

Candidates include Freiherr von Doernberg, former Chief of Protocol in Ribbentrops' nazi Foreign Ministry, and Paul Schmidt, Hitler's translator.

GERMAN RIGHT PARTY

Openly pro-nazi party, with Hitler's old programme. Leading candidates are all former prominent nazis, including Dr Werner Naumann, former Secretary of State in Goebbel's Propaganda Ministry; Colonel Hans-Ulrich Rudel, nazi air ace; Hitler's favourite author Hans Grimm; General Alexander Andrae, nazi commander on Crete; and nazi General Wolf.

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W. Germany's „Democratic" Electoral Law

The West German election on September 6th is being held under a new electoral law, specially designed by Chancellor Adenauer to increase his own chances of attaining a majority.

The electoral system is a mixture of the British system of direct election of candidates by a simple majority in single constituencies, and the usual European system of voting for a party list.

The new parliament will be made up of about 484 members, half elected in constituencies and half on party lists.

Each elector has two votes, one of which he gives to his direct candidate, and one which he gives to the party of his choice. The second vote is then computed by the extremely complicated "d'Hondt method" of proportional representation.

The main undemocratic feature of the new law is the clause laying down that only those parties shall be represented in the new parliament which gain 5% of the total vote in West Germany.

This means in effect that parties which cannot return a minimum of 25 candidates will not be represented. This clause was particularly inserted in the new law in the hope that it would prevent the representation of the Communist Party and other parties opposing West German remilitarisation.

A further clause, calling for the collection of a very large number of signatures from voters before a new party could put up candidates, was so obviously contrary to the West German Constitution that it was declared invalid by the West German Constitutional Court on July 31st.

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East Berliners Drinking Milk in West Berlin Across the border

"STARVING EAST GERMANS"

Full Details of U. S. Food Parcel Racket on next pages

IKE'S FOOD FRAUD

On July 10th President Eisenhower offered 15 million dollars worth of surplus American food to relieve an alleged "food shortage" in East Germany.

He made the "offer" in a message to the Soviet Government. Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov replied on July 11th:

"It is obvious that the United States Government is incorrectly informed about the situation in the eastern part of Germany. This is not surprising, since you state that the information on East Germany was derived from such sources as the American High Commissioner in Germany and Chancellor Adenauer in Bonn, who bear the chief responsibility for the disturbances of public order in the eastern parts of Berlin which you mention.

"The United States Government has decided to supply foodstuffs to the value of 15 million dollars without having obtained the views of the Government of the German Democratic Republic on this matter. Such behaviour would nowadays offend even the population of a colony, let alone the German people and its lawful democratic Government.

"All this makes it clear that in the case in point the U. S. Government is in no way concerned about the food supplies of the German population, but has resolved to resort to a propaganda manoeuvre, which has nothing in common with the true interests of the German population."

On the same date the East German Government also indignantly rejected the American "help", which was an obvious propaganda manoeuvre.

If the Americans were really interested in helping East Germany this announcement stated, then they should release the bank accounts in New York of the German Democratic Republic, which were frozen last year, and cease to hinder normal trade between East and West.

Despite the rejection of this fraudulent "help", the American authorities in Germany proceeded to establish distribution points for the food in West Berlin.

On July 21st the Soviet High Commssioner V. Semyonov addressed a note to U. S. High Commissioner Conant, stating:

"In the past few days the American occupation authorities have opened special offices in West Berlin, near to the sector boundary of East Berlin, in which fascist agents are active in the guise of food distributors . . .

"Such acts can only be regarded as a continuation of the attempts being made to organise fascists and criminals for provocative actions such as the acts of arson, looting etc committed in East Berlin on June 17th.

"Attention must be drawn to the fact that the whole maneuvre with the so-called food aid is being carried out at a time when millions of people are hungry in West Germany and West Berlin.

"It is well known that there are over 1,500,000 unemployed living on scanty doles in West Germany, and up to 200,000 in West Berlin, while there is no unemployment in the German Democratic Republic and East Berlin . . .

"In drawing your attention to these facts I insist that you should take immediate measures to stop these illegal and undoubtedly impermissible actions."

A large proportion of the "starving East Germans" who turned up at the distribution points to collect their charity parcels were well-to-do shop-keepers and farmers, who were very indignant to find that the charity parcels consisted largely of flour and dried peas, which they could have bought in any quantity and very cheaply in any East German food shop.

Many East Berliners who went to the distribution points promptly distributed the contents of their parcels to West Berlin unemployed, who are really living on a stanvation diet.

All applicants for parcels had to give their names and addresses to the members of the West Berlin terrorist groups who mannned the distribution points. "Likely-looking" applicants were hurried away for interrogation by American intelligence officers, and for enlistment in one of the various spy organisations maintained and financed by the Americans.

TRADE, NOT "CHARITY"

"Supplies from the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, together with the foodstuffs produced in our Republic, ensure a certain and regular supply of the population and a considerable increase in supplies in the second half of 1953. The Government of the German Democratic Republic has therefore rejected the insulting and demagogic American offer (of 15 million dollars worth of surplus food, ed.).

"We have no need of 'help' supplied, as we see in all parts of the world, under dishonourable conditions. We do not want gifts of this nature. But we are certainly ready to buy an additional 15 million dollars worth of foodstuffs, or even more, at world market prices in the United States and under normal commercial conditions. We should naturally only buy those goods in which we were interested.

"The reply to this offer will show the real aims of the American Government."

East German Prime Minister Grotewohl, Government Statement, July 29th 1953.

Cat out of Bag

Bonn, Germany, July 3. — United States Government agencies in Washington and Bonn are considering a plan to ship huge quantities of Government-owned surplus butter, wheat, meat, dried beans and other foodstuffs into East Germany.

. . . They would seek to improve Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's chances of winning the forthcoming West German elections by associating him directly or indirectly with the move . . .

The authors of the plan believe the distribution of massive quantities of food from the United States in East Germany not only would embarrass the Soviet authorities but also would contribute further to undermining their control.

Some observers were of the opinion that its authors were singularly naive in their belief that the Soviet authorities would be taken in by this maneuver.

(New York Times, July 4th 1953)

THAT "GENEROUS GESTURE"

By Stefan Heym

Old man Rockefeller, after he had made his pile by driving millions of men and women into an early grave, used to like to go driving in his wheel chair and hand out dimes to little children

I was deeply touched by the generous gesture of the American Government in offering the poor little German Democratic Republic 15 million dollars worth of food.

"That is really a fine humane gesture" I thought to myself. "Maybe Eisenhower and Dulles in Washington are feeling sorry for sending those gangsters over here on June 17th to smash our windows and loot schnaps and cigarettes from the shops."

That was what I thought for a second or two. And then I recalled the years which I lived in the United States, and I remembered the price of foodstuffs there. And I sat down and worked out all that we might get for the generously offered 15 million dollars. Naturally Eisenhower and Dulles had declared that they had no intention of giving us the money, but that they would select the food themselves, and have it distributed by High Commissioner Conant and his West German colleagues.

I reckoned out that the sum of 15 million dollars would mean not quite one dollar for every man, woman and child in the German Democratic Republic. In fact, to be exact, each of us would get just 85 cents worth of food.

And taking American prices, about which I have cursed often enough, we could get for 85 cents about one and a half pounds of dried prunes, or four frankfurters — the American sort of frankfurter which is about one quarter the size of ours, and tastes like damp cardboard.

A decent dinner in the States costs between two and three dollars, so the generous gift of the American Government to us poor sinners here would be equivalent to about one third of a dinner each. Or, for the money equivalent of the gift, we could make eight and a half telephone calls — local calls, of course — or we could take five and a half rides on the New York subway.

That is real generosity, all wool and a yard wide, I thought to myself. It can only be compared to the noble, but unfortunately defunct, Marshall Plan. I had some experience of the Marshall Plan in Holland, where I happened to be in 1948. Wherever I went in Amsterdam I saw great piles of dried and very wrinkled apricots in the shop windows. "The Dutch must be quite nuts about dried apricots" I thought to myself.

But then I went into a shop, and found that the facts were really quite different. The apricots were the Marshall Aid. The apricot growers in California could not sell their crop, so they got the Government to take it off their hands, and the U. S. Government had then made a generous gesture to Holland, and shipped it over there.

This is about the most generous generosity that I ever have seen. But of course, when you look at the U. S. Government and its methods, you really get to see something.

And by the by, enough fruit grows in Holland, good fresh fruit, so the wrinkled old apricots stayed in the shop windows until they rotted, and the Dutch are still paying the interest on the Marshall Aid to this very day.

Now the German Democratic Republic is in line for some of this legendary generosity. It might almost be worth seeing, just for the laugh, what sort of 85 cents worth of junk they want to unload on us.

But on second thoughts, let's not try. The Americans do not give something for nothing — we have seen that in West Germany. It started there with CARE packages, and now the Americans have taken over most of the heavy industry and a great deal else besides.

Some years ago, there was a small time gangster in New York who specialised in attacking helpless women and stealing their purses. But he was always careful to give back to his victims their car fare home.

He was a generous man.

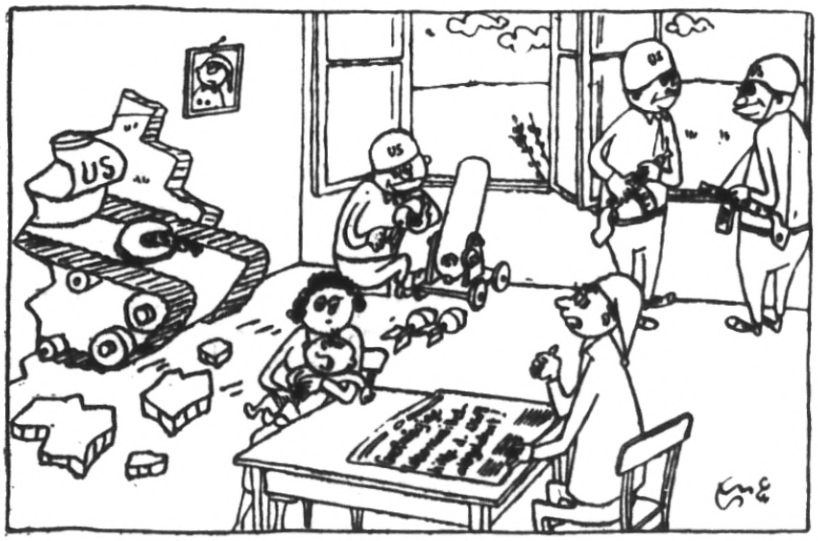
(Translated from German)

Bonn Bans Food . . .

The West German authorities have banned the export to East Germany of a big shipment of oranges, lemons and other tropical fruit now lying in warehouses in Hamburg, British Zone.

Reports from West Germany state that the ban was issued on direct American orders. The fruit shipment, wihch had been purchased by the East German import agents in the course of normal international trade, was valued at 1,250,00 marks.

The ban was imposed at the same time as President Eisenhower was trying to make political capital by offering 15 million dollars worth of food to "starving East Germany".



"Remember how they moved in here in West Germany with their 'generous food aid'?"

Building the German Democratic Republic (3)

SOCIAL INSURANCE

Before 1945 there was no unified social insurance system in Germany, and in the area of the present German Democratic Republic alone there were no fewer than 1300 different insurance companies dealing with this sort of work.

The state insurance law was extremely unclear, and its interpretation was in the hands of courts which almost always produced verdicts unfavourable to the workers.

The old insurance companies, which maintained huge administrative staffs and built big office buildings, made huge profits out of the social insurance business — 20,000 million marks during the Hitler period, for instance — but their benefits were scanty.

After the end of the war the workers of the Soviet Occupation Zone, which later became the German Democratic Republic, established one central social insurance organisation, with one standard of benefits and premiums, and with low administrative costs.

In April 1951 the control of this united insurance system was transferred to the trade unions, which means that the persons insured are in effect in control of their own insurance system.

Every employed person is compulsorily insured, paying as premium 10 percent of his gross earnings. The employer also pays a sum amounting to 10 percent of gross earnings. In addition the state pays a subsidy amounting to several thousand million marks.

If the contributions appear to be high to readers, they must remember that the Hitlerite war had a very great infuence on the normal composition of the population. The losses were highest amongst the younger generation, so that the proportion of disabled persons and old-age pensioners is unusually high.

In 1952, there was one pensioner to be supported for every 2.15 persons in work, compared to a proportion of one pensioner to every six workers in 1910, and one pensioner to five workers in 1921.

As a result, over half the total income of the social insurance fund is devoted to paying out pensions.

Minimum pensions paid out today in the German Democratic Republic in cases of old age amount to 75 marks monthly (about seven pounds sterling).

Accidents at work leading to permanent disablement, and disablement as the result of occupational disease, result in the payment of a pension ranging up to 80 percent of the last annual salary earned by the insured person.

The table given on this page makes a comparison between the sickness benefits paid by the social insurance fund in East Germany, and the average benefits given by the private or municipal insurance funds in West Germany, for the position with regard to benefits is quite different in West Germany.

As a result of the partitioning of the country immediately after the end of the war, the old reactionary private system of insurance was reinstated there. In West Germany today there are more than 2000 independent sickness insurance organisations, 253 organisations providing accident insurance, and 35 funds providing old age insurance. At least 14 percent of the money collected as premiums is devoted to administrative expenses.

SICK BENEFITS

East Germany	West Germany
Medicines	
Provided without cost, in any quantity, also for members of family. No prescription fee.	Prescription fee of 50 pfennigs on all prescriptions. Medicines etc only provided free for insured person himself, and then only to limit of 50 marks. Above this figure the insurance pays only a proportion between 33% and 70% of the cost. Only 70% of cost paid for members of family. Pensioners can only be prescribed medicine up to limit of 4 marks monthly.
Dental Treatment, Dentures	
Free for insured person and members of family. No prescription fee.	Insurance pays between 40% and 70% of the cost of dentures for insured person and members of family.
Hospital Treatment	
Free for insured person and members of family during whole course of sickness.	Top limit of 26 weeks free hospital treatment. Members of family receive between 13 and 26 weeks free.
Sick Pay	
90% of wages for 6 weeks, then 50% until health is restored or permanent disablement is ascertained. Paid from first day of illness.	50% of wages paid from 4th day of sickness up to limit of 26 weeks.
Maternity Benefits	
Leave on full pay for five weeks before and six weeks after confinement. Special grant of 115 marks.	Six weeks maternity leave at 75% of wages, 6 further weeks at 50% of wages. Special grant of about 25 marks.

Apart from the sick benefits, the minimum pension rates are considerably better in East Germany than in the West. Disablement pensions are at least 30 percent higher, widows pensions 37 percent higher, and orphans pensions 84 percent higher. The children's allowance paid out to pensioners with minors to support is no less than 114 percent higher than in the West.

A very important difference between the present social insurance system and the old-fashioned system still prevailing in West Germany is that the East German social security authorities play an active part in the popularisation and use of preventive medicine.

As early as 1947 an order issued by the then Soviet Military Administration laid down that the social insurance fund should help to establish a proper network of factory clinics and first aid stations. Since then the tasks of the social insurance in the field of preventive medicine have grown greatly, and convalescent homes and sanatoriums run by the insurance fund under the supervision of the trade unions are to be found in all parts of East Germany.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic devotes much time and care to the problems of social insurance, for as Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl stated in a recent speech: "We wish to banish for ever the threat of sickness and of epidemics. We are working hard building hospitals, holiday homes, and nursery schools, and we do not want to see them wrecked and torn in a hail of bombs."

Governmental Changes

Former Minister of Justice Max Fechner was removed from his post because of activity hostile to the German Democratic Republic, it was officially announced on July 16th. New Minister of Justice is Dr Hilde Benjamin.

On July 24th it was announced that Wilhelm Zaisser, Minister of State Security, had been relieved of office. The Ministry of State Security will in future be incorporated in the Ministry of the Interior, under the leadership of State Secretary Ernst Wollweber.

(cont. from page 12)

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

nazis as they tramped with sword and fire throughout the length and breadth of Europe:

"Germany, Germany above everything,

Above everything in the world...
From the Maas (in Belgium)
To the Vistula (deep in Poland, 300 miles east of the German frontier)

From the Adige (deep in Italy, 150 miles south of the German frontier)

To the Belt."

Readers in Britain might perhaps ask their Members of Parliament if the money of British tax-payers should be used to train bands to boost aggressive Prussian militarism.

* * *

On another page of this issue we report on the huge shipments of foodstuffs and other goods of East Germany promised by the Soviet Union, partly in the normal course of trade, and partly on credit in able to make a speedy rise in the standard of living possible here.

The figures are impressive, but almost too astronomical for most of us who are used to buying half a pound of butter, a loaf of bread, and a few lamb chops.

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Germany.

To see for myself what these shipments looked like, I went to the frontier station of Frankfurt-on-the-Oder a few days ago. There I stood at the station and watched the trains coming in. Shipments, largely of food, were arriving at such a pace that many trains had to be diverted to Guben and Kuestrin, other frontier towns, railway officials told me.

Everywhere there was bustling activity, as the long rows of tanker trucks filled with ground nut oil were assembled in a train bound for the margarine factory; refrigerator cars filled with butter were shunted together to make up trains for Berlin, Dresden and Leipzig.

In the offices of the German Import-Export Agency, on the second floor of the Finance Office, just outside the main station, Herr Helmut Lehmann, who is in charge of this important office allowed me to look at the lists showing in detail the goods which were arriving.

I copied down the arrival list for July 22nd, which seemed typical. During the 24 hours 11 food trains arrived, 9 from the Soviet Union and 2 from Poland. Each truck carried an average of 10 tons. Here is what they brought with them:

12.30 a. m.	Four trucks of oil-cake as fodder. One truck of wheat.
2.44 a. m.	30 trucks of barley, 36 tanks of edible oil.
3.51 a. m.	32 trucks of butter, two trucks of fish paste, eight trucks of lard.
6.27 a. m.	One truck of Polish canned fish.
7.43 a. m.	39 trucks of barley and 17 trucks of oats.
10.10 a. m.	15 trucks of ground-nut oil, six trucks of barley.
12.40 p. m.	20 trucks of butter, 11 trucks of suet, 18 trucks of lard.
4.10 p. m.	4 trucks of lard and 10 trucks of butter.
9.00 p. m.	Seven trucks of suet, seven trucks of lard, five trucks of canned fish, 31 trucks of butter.
10.20 p. m.	Six trucks of eggs, two trucks of canned fish, one truck of pickled cucumbers.
11.25 p. m.	Seven trucks of oil-cake.

Which, all in all, seemed quite a good quantity of high-quality food (all except the oil-cake, which is intended as fodder for the East German pigs) to arrive at one frontier station in one twenty-four hour stretch.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Returning from holiday a few days ago I was confronted by enormous piles of newspapers from London, New York and other places, through which I had to plough my way.

After skimming through some of the wilder press lies of the century about events in East Germany (see below), I felt ready to believe almost anything.

But I wasn't prepared for what happened early next morning. I awoke early, and could have sworn I heard a lion roaring. Even the most daring of the western correspondents had not suggested that the Friedrich Strasse in East Berlin, where I live, had been turned literally into a jungle, so I dropped off to sleep again.

But then I very definitely heard several lions roaring, so I got up and looked out of the window, only to find that during the night a large circus had moved into the vacant bomb-site just a few yards away.

So that if you notice any signs of disjointedness in this number of GERMAN REPORT you should just put it down to the fact that I am really longing to run downstairs, throw nuts to the monkeys and pat the muzzles of the lines of ponies tethered behind the big tent.

Ananias Dept

I cannot even begin to try to answer all the many thousands of downright lies about events in East Germany printed in the papers of the western world in the past few weeks. Several times in the past I have warned readers of GERMAN REPORT that they should be very careful about believing anything which they read in the big-business press about events in this part of the world, and the happenings of the past few weeks have amply confirmed the warning.

But here are just a few of the gems of lying reporting which have caught my eye recently:

"Hungry East Berliners ... crossed into West Berlin to buy cut-price milk and fruit ... Some women drank five cups of milk, for in the East there has been no fresh milk since the war."

News Chronicle, London, July 15th 1953

"Milk ... is unobtainable in the East Zone."

Daily Mail, London, July 18th 1953

Ever since reading these two "news items" I have been wondering what that white fluid is which I drink a whole bottle of in my office every morning. It tastes like milk to me, and I just go into a shop and buy it on the way to work.

"In one of his rare broadcasts (West Berlin Mayor) Professor Reuter told the people of the Soviet zone this afternoon that today was the beginning of the end."

Manchester Guardian, July 10th 1953

It would be interesting to have a definition of the word "rare" from the Honourable Terence Prettie, who is the Manchester Guardian correspondent who sent this report. Mayor Reuter makes a regular weekly propaganda broadcast from the American-run radio station in West Berlin. If a correspondent is so inaccurate in minor details, his reports as a whole are not worth much.

Pay Your Money — Take Your Choice

"Few people took advantage to-day of the reopening of the Soviet sector after three weeks ... The trains I saw running between the sectors were nearly empty."

Daily Telegraph, London, July 10th 1953

"For the first time in three weeks, thousands of West Berliners could today cross the city's 'Iron Curtain', frontier for a first-hand impression of life in East Berlin. East-bound overhead trains trams and buses were packed with Westerners travelling to the East..."

Daily Mail, London, July 10th 1953

"To-day for the first time I saw vegetables in East Berlin shops. But I saw no potatoes."

Daily Telegraph, London, July 18th 1953

For the first time since when? Mr R. H. C. Steed, who wrote this nonsense, has been in Berlin for some years, and if he has ever troubled to look, he must often have seen lots of vegetables in East Berlin shops. Neither I nor my wife can remember one single day this year when vegetables of some sort were not available in the shops.

Only six days after Mr. Steed was steadfastly "seeing no potatoes", Deputy Lord Mayor Harry Krebs reported to the East Berlin City Council that stocks of potatoes for sale in the City were so large that shipments from outside had been halted. In the current quarter East Berlin's demand for vegetables had been estimated at 25,000 tons, but at least 28,000 tons would be available to meet the demand, Herr Krebs reported.

"For every three slices of bread eaten in West Germany there is only one for the average worker in the east."

Daily Herald, London, July 13th 1953

All that I can say to this is that the people in West Germany must eat an appalling amount of bread. I have just had a look at the shelves of the baker across the street. He is displaying three different grades of white bread, four types of brown and black bread, besides rye wafers, crisp bread and rusks of various sorts. All these goods are freely on sale, without ration tickets, to all comers, and the prices are considerably lower than in West Germany.

Record Holder

But then it is difficult to expect anything resembling the truth from Dennis Martin, the so-called journalist who signed the story. He still holds the GERMAN REPORT Challenge Cup for the most original lie of 1952 for his assertion that thousands of people were fleeing from East Germany to West Berlin by plane, although there is no air connection of any sort between the two territories.

Incidentally I offered Mr Martin space to explain how he came to write such a whopper, but he never claimed the privilege.

And now, after all those lies from the big business press, is one short item which is unfortunately true:

"A British military band at Muenchen Gladbach, West Germany, today played "Deutschland über alles' the German national anthem, before the anthems of Britain, Belgium and Holland."

Daily Telegraph, London, July 2nd

Do you remember the words of this anthem, which was sung by the

(cont. on page 11)

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